

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. In the upper right, a steep, light-colored cliff rises from the sea. Waves are crashing against its base, creating a large plume of white spray. The ocean is a deep blue, with visible ripples and smaller waves further out. The foreground shows the ocean's surface with some darker patches, possibly rocks or sandbars.

ESIC

The Environmental Science Information Center

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Data And Information Service

Environmental Science Information Center

The complex environmental issues facing today's society have created new needs and users for scientific information: New needs to solve socio-technical problems and to formulate public policy, and new users such as public policy makers, regional planners, business people, citizen groups, and lawyers.

Increasingly, the programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce are addressing the new information needs of these users. Within NOAA, primary responsibility for managing and disseminating this information lies with the Environmental Data and Information Service (EDIS).

The Environmental Science Information Center (ESIC) is part of the EDIS family of centers* that form the service structure needed for a comprehensive single source of environmental information and data. ESIC is EDIS' information specialist, librarian, and publisher.

Information Specialist And Librarian

ESIC coordinates NOAA's library and information services and its participation in the national network of scientific information centers and libraries. Information resources organized by ESIC deal with atmospheric, earth, and oceanic sciences, as well as interdisciplinary areas such as energy, the environment, pollution, and natural resource management. Integration of these resources enables ESIC to offer a one-stop service capable of responding to varied information requests. Computer technology is used to gain access to information and source materials.

Computerized literature searches provide information from over 80 data bases such as

**The other EDIS Centers are: Center for Environmental Assessment Services (CEAS) and National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), Washington, DC; National Climatic Center (NCC), Asheville, NC; and National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center (NGSDC), Boulder, CO.*



Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts, Energyline, Enviroline, Environmental Impact Statements, Meteorological and Geostrophysical Abstracts, National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Oceanic Abstracts, and Pollution Abstracts. The complete list of data bases is available on request. Many ESIC information centers can provide custom literature searches in which information on a specific topic is selected from the relevant data bases. Output is a list of published literature or ongoing research projects in areas of interest to persons who have a need for a retrospective survey; for example, legal aspects of aquaculture, effectiveness of hurricane warning systems, and hazards of dumping nuclear wastes into the ocean.

The central library and information facility also provides four additional services:

- Selective dissemination of information. A current awareness feature in which citations are selected from the recent literature and provided periodically to users with long-term continuing requirements; for example, Federal legislation affecting coastal industries.
- Packaged searches. These are generated in anticipation of a need for information on high-interest topics such as coastal zone, marine corrosion, oil spill cleanup, and weather modification.
- Review articles. These serve as briefings on environmental problems by providing overviews of the issues involved and documented by selected annotated bibliographies.
- ENDEX searches. These are of data referral files of the Environmental Data Index (ENDEX), a computer-searchable inventory of interdisciplinary files of environmental data maintained by EDIS' National Oceanographic Data Center.

In addition, all ESIC information facilities provide the normal library tailored information and reference services. The extensive collections cover a wide spectrum of topics, including aquaculture, cartography, climatology, hydrography, marine ecology, marine fisheries, marine geology, marine geophysics, meteorology, ocean engineering, ocean policy, and oceanography.



Publisher

As NOAA's publisher of scientific and technical information, ESIC reviews, edits, and processes NOAA manuscripts for publication. Activities include reorganizing and rewriting the text, checking mathematical and scientific accuracy, and planning and evaluating the accompanying artwork. Among the publications made available are a series of Atlases, Professional Papers, Technical Reports, Technical Memoranda; technical manuals, handbooks, progress reports; contract and grant reports; proceedings of conferences; and descriptive climatology studies.

ESIC provides direct or functional supervision over scientific and technical editing and publishing, both in the Washington, D.C., area and in the field. It provides the liaison between NOAA and the printing authorities in the Department of Commerce and Government Printing Office.

ESIC also reviews articles by NOAA scientists describing their research efforts, selects those that are newsworthy, and rewrites them for the general public. These articles are distributed as NOAA *Science and Engineering News* and are sent to more than 700 periodicals around the world.

Services

- Provides reference services. Some services are provided on a cost-recovery basis to non-NOAA individuals.
- Provides copies of NOAA publications on request from qualified users, including governments, universities, non-profit organizations, professional societies, chambers of commerce, public information media, and individuals and organizations having cooperative or exchange agreements with NOAA.
- Prepares special bibliographies on request. This service is provided on a full cost-recovery basis to non-NOAA individuals.
- Provides current awareness services.
- Lends materials to other libraries and NOAA employees.
- Permits on-site use of library collections.
- Provides refereeing, reviewing, editing, and publishing services for NOAA authors of manuscripts destined for both NOAA and non-NOAA publication series.

Products

- *Current Issue Outlines*
- *Science and Engineering News*
- *NOAA Scientific and Technical Publications Announcement*
- *Packaged Literature Searches*
- *Annual Directory of NOAA Library and Information Centers*
- *Library and Information Services Division Accessions List*
- *Book Catalog of the Library and Information Services Division*

Facilities

Director's Office

Correspondence:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE INFORMATION CENTER, D8
NOAA, Rockville, MD 20852

Location:

Rockwall Building, 11400 Rockville Pike, Room 678
Rockville, Md.

Telephone:

301-443-8137

Library and Information Facilities

CENTRAL FACILITY, WSC-4 Building, 6009 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852. Emphasizes oceanic sciences and houses older materials. For information or reference services, including computerized searches, publications (general information), and bibliographic assistance, telephone 301-443-8330. For interlibrary loan requests, library holdings information, loans (circulation), requests for NOAA publications, telephone 301-443-8334.

CAMP SPRINGS CENTER, World Weather Building, 5200 Auth Road, Room 605A, Camp Springs, MD 20233. Emphasizes atmospheric sciences. Telephone 301-763-8266.

GEORGETOWN CENTER, Page Building 2, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Room 193, Washington, DC 20235. Emphasizes aquatic sciences and fisheries. Telephone 202-634-7346.

SILVER SPRING CENTER, Gramax Building, 8060 13th Street, Room 816, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Emphasizes atmospheric sciences. Telephone 301-427-7800.

SUITLAND CENTER, Federal Building 4, Suitland and Silver Hill Roads, Room 3216, Suitland, MD 20233. Emphasizes atmospheric sciences. Telephone 301-763-7433.

MIAMI/CORAL GABLES CENTER, 15 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149. Telephone FTS-350-1330 or 305-361-3361, Ext. 330. University of Miami, P.O. Box 24865, Coral Gables, FL 33124. Telephone 305-350-4498. Emphasizes atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

Editing and Publishing Facilities

Scientific and Technical Publication Division, Rockwall Building, Room 666. For information or status of reviewing, editing, and printing of NOAA publications, telephone 301-443-8610.



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